Department of State TELEGRAM

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S E C R E T SAIGON 4941

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. IN CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 5 WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR, NGUYEN VAN KIEU, GENERAL THIEU'S BROTHER, SAID THEY WERE PLEASED WITH ELECTION OUTCOME ALTHOUGH CONCERNED ABOUT BASIS FOR DZU'S VOTE. KIEU MENTIONED THAT SEVERAL OF THE PROVINCES WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN BY DZU WERE LARGELY INSECURE. HEAVY DZU VOTE IN THESE AREAS AND OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERABLE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO HIM FOR CAMPAIGN RAISED SERIOUS QUESTIONS AS TO ELEMENTS SUPPORTING HIM. KIEU ALSO TOUCHED ON SOME OF THE MORE QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES DZU HAD

(1)

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 4941 S E C R E T
BEEN INVOLVED IN. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WLD BE HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE FOR GVN TO TAKE ANY PRECIPITATE LEGAL ACTION IN PRESENT SITUATION.

2. KIEU REPORTED THAT HE HAD ALREADY MADE SOUNDINGS IN OTHER CIVILIAN CANDIDATES' CAMPS OR HAD BEEN APPROACHED

SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAIGON 04941 051839Z

BY THEM. HE INTIMATED THAT CONVERSATION JUST BEFORE THE ELECTION WITH HUONG CAMP HAD LED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT HUONG MIGHT STILL BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT. HUONG HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THIEU STATEMENT SATURDAY EVENING JUST BEFORE ELECTIONS. KIEU EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT HUONG MIGHT ACCEPT PRIME MINISTERSHIP AND SAID THAT HE WOUD BE SEEING HUONG SHORTLY, HOPEFULLY TO SET UP CONSULTATION BETWEEN THIEU AND HUONG. KIEU RETURNED ONCE AGAIN TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT NGUYEN LUU VIEN MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AS A PRIME MINISTER CANDIDATE WITH HUONG ENDORSEMENT.

3. KIEU REPORTED THAT HE HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED BY HA THUC KY'S MAN NGUYEN VAN NGAI AND NGUYEN XUAN OANH, PRESUMABLY SPEAKING FOR PHAN KHAC SUU CAMP, BOTH OF WHOM INDICATED READINESS TO CONSIDER COOPERATION WITH THIEU

PAGE 3 RUHJIR 4941 S E C R E T
GOVERNMENT. KIEU SAID HE EXPECTED TO BE DIRECTLY IN TOUCH WITH HA THUC KY AND SUU WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. KIEU SEEMED TO ACCEPT NECESSITY FOR ACHIEVING AS BROAD COOPERATION AS POSSIBE. HE MENTIONED POSSIBLE USE OF HIGH GOVERNMENT PSOITIONS SUCH AS SUPREME COURT, INSPECTORATE AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERSHIPS TO ATTRACT LEADERS.

5. PROBLEM OF KYATHIEU RELATIONSHIP SEEMED TO BOTHER HIM LESS AND HE REITERATED THAT HE THOUGHT THE TWO COULD WORK TOGETHER. HE SAID IT WAS GOING TO BE NECESSARY, HOWEVER, TO GET RID OF SOME OF KY'S MORE UNDESIRABLE COLLABORATORS.

6. KIEU ANTICIPATED THERE WOLD BE COMPLAINTS ABOUT ELECTION FAIRNESS BUT SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ACTION WOULD BE FAVORABLE. HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT DZU COULD SUBSTANTIATE HIS PUBLIC HARGES WITH ANY CONVINCI[illegible] PROOF. HE AGREED THAT AN EARLY AND COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF POLICY AND PROGRAMS BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IN ORDER TO ATTRACT UPPORT. HE ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE NE[illegible]

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SECRET

PAGE 03 SAIGON 04941 051839Z

CESSITY OF HAVING COMPETENT AND TRAINED PERSONNEL IN MINISTRIES RATHER THAN JUST POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS.

PAGE 4 PUMJIR WRORQ S E C R E T

7. COMMENT: KIEU AS USUAL SAID MOST OF THE RIGHT THINGS AND IT IS TO BE HOPED THATHIS STATEMENT ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR BROAD COOPERATION ARE SHARED BY HIS BROTHER AND BY THE CIVILIAN LEADERS INVOLVED. HE SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT THE LATTER WOULD BE MORE ATTRACTED BY THE REWARDS OS COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT THAN BY JOINING IN DENUNCIATION OF THE ELECTIONS WITH DZU.

8. KIEU'S EFFTRTS TO ENCOURAGE SUCH COOPERATION ARE PRAISEWORTHY BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO KNOW HOW EFFECTIVE THEY MAY BE. THIS WILL PRESUMABLY ONLY BECOME EVIDENT WHEN CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS OF CABINET AND OTHER POSITIONS TAKE PLACE. KIEU AT LEAST UNDERSTANDS THE DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL NEED FOR BROADER POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND PRESUMABLY IS ADVISING GEN. THIEU IN THIS SENSE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD JUST SPENT THE LAST TWO DAYS FISHING WITH HIS BROTHER AT VUNG TAU WHERE THEY HAD DISCUSSED MANY OF THESE QUESTIONS.

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